



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2006

No. 100

## Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, source of wisdom and fountain of knowledge, we praise You for the gift of Your love. Guide our Senators with Your love. Do not permit the confusion of our time to confuse them. Empower them to contribute to the rightness of things. Let them be part of the answer to the problems in our world.

As they choose the hard right over the easy wrong, give them Your peace. May their lives count for good when even the best does not seem enough. Create within each of us clean hearts and renewed right spirits, that we may become instruments of Your love.

Lord, may the spirit of this prayer be acceptable to You. We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBACK led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 26, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWNBACK thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### GULF OF MEXICO ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2006—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate resumes consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3711, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 3711, a bill to enhance the energy independence and security of the United States by providing for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. shall be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Who seeks recognition?

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from the great State of Wyoming.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. This morning we will have approximately 1 hour of debate prior to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the Gulf of Mexico energy security bill. The vote will occur at about 10 o'clock today, and immediately following that vote we will recess for the 11 o'clock joint meeting. I remind my colleagues to remain in the Chamber following that vote so that we

may proceed at 10:40 this morning to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the Prime Minister of Iraq. I thank all Senators for their attention.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who yields time?

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I understand there are 15 minutes equally divided. I am not sure what equally divided means this morning, but we will do our best. I think Senator BINGAMAN may be here and might want the opposition's time. We will try to use our time in favor of it as judiciously as we can. I start by yielding myself 6 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is recognized for 6 minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today is a very important day. Let me explain why that is to all the Senators and those who are interested.

First, I am going to try to convince our colleagues today that this small lease sale that we are talking about is one of the most important issues spoken of in this Chamber this year. This morning, as the Sun rises over the majestic dome of the Capitol and families wake up across the land, whether it be in Albuquerque, NM, or in New Orleans, LA, or Miami, FL, as they wake up, millions of Americans around the great land find their homes cooled and after breakfast they start their cars, drive their children through their neighborhoods, in carpools or otherwise, to get some needed relief from

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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